CLAIMS

The embodiments of an invention in which an exclusive property or right is claimed are define as follows:

1. An input device for an aircraft computer system comprising:

a) a cursor control housing including,

1) a wrist rest portion;

b) a cursor control device mounted on said housing forward of said wrist rest portion and within finger reach of said wrist rest, said device generating cursor control signals representative of operator activation of said device; and,

c) a rotary knob mounted on said housing and within finger reach of said wrist rest, said knob generating rotary signals indicative of rotation of said knob.

2. The input device according to claim 1 wherein said rotary knob includes,

a) a coarse knob generating coarse rotary signals indicative of rotation of said coarse rotary knob, and,

b) a fine knob generating fine rotary signals indicative of rotating of said fine rotary knob.

3. The input device according to claim 1 wherein said rotary knob extends axially from said housing.

4. The input device according to claim 1 wherein said cursor control device is a joystick.

5. An input device for a vehicle computer system comprising:

a) a cursor control housing including,

1) wrist rest means for supporting the wrist/hand of an operator;

b) cursor control means, mounted on said housing within finger reach of said rest means, for generating cursor control signals indicative of X-Y actuations of said cursor control means; and,

c) rotary input means, mounted on said housing within finger reach of said rest means, for generating rotary signals indicative of rotation of said rotary input means.

Sub C1

6. The input device for aircraft avionics systems according to claim 5 wherein said rotary input means includes,

a) a coarse knob generating coarse rotary signals indicative of rotation of said coarse rotary knob, and,

b) a fine knob generating fine rotary signals indicative of rotating of said fine rotary knob.

7. A method of inputting data to a vehicle computer system having a display device and cursor, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a control console in communication with said computer system, said console having,

1) a housing including a wrist rest portion;

2) a cursor control device mounted on said housing within finger reach of said wrist rest portion, said device generating cursor control signals representative of actuation of said device; and,

3) a rotary knob mounted on said housing within finger reach of said wrist rest portion, said knob generating rotary signals indicative of rotation of said knob;

b) manipulating said cursor control device to select a desired parameter; and,

c) rotating said rotary knob to select a desired value for said parameter.

ADD A4